

February 28, 2006

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 91 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

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**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)**

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

MTOC (Master Table of Contents).

- Amends the MTOC for Chapter 3, Section 7.1A, ASC (Ambulatory Surgical Center) Reimbursement from Addenda 1 to Addendum 1.
- Amends the MTOC by adding Chapter 3, Section 7.2A, ASC (Ambulatory Surgical Center) Reimbursement, Addendum 2.

Chapter 2, Section 16.5, EXPERIMENTAL/INVESTIGATIONAL (UNPROVEN) PROCEDURES.

- Under Policy Considerations removes reference to meniscal transplant (allograft) for meniscal [May 2005] now referenced in Chapter 2, Section 19.1, Musculoskeletal System.
- Under Policy Considerations removes reference to pancreatic islet cell transplantation as this is referenced in Chapter 2, Section 31.5, SPK (Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney), PAK (Pancreas After Kidney), and PTA (Pancreas Transplant Alone).

Chapter 2, Section 19.1, MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM.

- Under Policy Considerations removes references to HCPCS codes, duplicate reference to tenosynovectomy, and references under Policy Considerations that should be listed under Exclusions.
- Under Exclusions adds endoscopic release of the transverse carpal ligament and related criteria; endoscopic performance of the wrist and related criteria; and specific services related to the treatment of flat feet.

Chapter 2, Section 30.3, SPEECH SERVICES.

- Under Policy Consideration clarifies language for the coverage of developmental articulation disorders that have an organic cause.
- Removes Exception for beneficiaries age 3-to-21 who are receiving special education from a public educational agency required by the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), which are indicated in the beneficiaries IEP (Individual Education Plan) and adds this language to Exclusions.
- Under Exclusions adds developmental articulation disorders that are developmental in nature, are self-correcting and that are not related to an educational or occupational deficit; and altered auditory feedback devices for stuttering.

Chapter 2, Section 30.7, CHELATION THERAPY.

- Under Policy removes classification for the coverage of EDTA (Edentate Disodium), chelation therapy as an experimental/investigational (unproven) therapeutic modality and adds this language to Exclusions; adds clarification as to when chelation therapy is a covered benefit.
- Removes Exceptions and adds this language under Policy.
- Adds Exclusions for chelation therapy (or chemical endarterectomy) using EDTA, for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, arthritis, hypoglycemia, diabetes, arteriosclerosis, and that documentation of toxic levels using hair analysis is excluded in accordance with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recommendations.

Chapter 3, Section 7.1, ASC (AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER) REIMBURSEMENT.

- Under Effective Dates amends ASC Reimbursement payment system for claims on or before November 1, 1994, through October 31, 2003, is addressed in Addendum 1, and the ASC Reimbursement payment system for claims on or after November 1, 2003, is addressed in Addendum 2.
- Under Policy adds references to Addendum 2, for claims on or after November 1, 2003.

Chapter 3, Section 7.1A, ASC (AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER) ADDENDUM 1.

- Amends Addenda1 to Addendum1, and revises language to reflect new dates related to Addendum1 for claim criteria on or before November 1, 1994, through October 31, 2003.

Chapter 3, Section 7.2A, ASC (AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER) ADDENDUM 2.

- Adds Addendum 2 and related language, such as CPT codes, payment group, and claim criteria on or after November 1, 2003.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

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